

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 SOE-02

AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02

PA-01 PRS-01 DOE-11 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 /147 W

-----029236 171229Z /20

R 170845Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4509

INFO AMEMBASSY GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BELGRADE 0289

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN PCAT YO

SUBJ: CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER RESTRAINT IN SSOD -  
YUGOSLAV VIEWS

REF: (A) 77 STATE 305298 (B) BELGRADE 0078

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY'S APPROACH TO GOY ON  
CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER RESTRAINT IN SSOD PER REF A, FSFA  
DISARMAMENT OFFICIAL SAID THAT WHILE WIDESPREAD RESISTANCE  
MAY BE EXPECTED, REACTION OF MANY COUNTRIES TO INTRODUCTION  
OF ISSUE AT SSOD WILL LIKELY DEPEND UPON "PERSPECTIVE" IN  
WHICH PROBLEM IS PLACED. IF MAJOR ARMS PRODUCERS  
ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR PREEMINENT CULPABILITY, AND CONTENT  
THEMSELVES WITH FOCUS ON "PRINCIPLES RATHER THAN SPECIFICS"  
OF PROBLEM, SOME PROGRESS MAY BE POSSIBLE. GOY IS "ANXIOUS"  
FOR FUTHER, HIGHER LEVEL CONSULTATIONS WITH USG ON SSOD.  
END SUMMARY.

1. POLCOUNS MADE PRESENTATION DEC 13 PER REF A TO FSFA IO

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SENIOR COUNS MIODRAG MIHAIOVIC.

2. MIHAIOVIC SAID THERE IS AS YET NO GOY POSITION PAPER  
ON SUBJECT OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS (CATS) IN CON-  
TEXT OF SSOD, BUT THAT HE WAS PREPARED TO CONVEY HIS  
"FRANK, PERSONAL" VIEWS ON SUBJECT, WHICH, HE ASSURED, ARE  
"NOT FAR FROM GOVERNMENT'S POSITION". HE MADE THE

FOLLOWING POINTS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST:

--MANY NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES WILL BE UNRESPONSIVE TO ADDRESSING CATS IN SSOD, BUT DEGREE OF RECEPTIVITY WILL LIKELY DEPEND ON "PERSPECTIVE" IN WHICH SUBJECT IS PLACED; FOCUS MUST BE ON INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL SECURITY PROBLEMS UNDERLYING VARIOUS NATIONS' DESIRE FOR MORE ARMS, THAT IS, CATS MUST BE ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE "THE END RATHER THAN THE BEGINNING OF THE QUESTION"; UNTIL FUNDAMENTAL CAUSES OF REGIONAL INSECURITY BEGIN TO BE DEALT WITH EFFECTIVELY, "VERY MANY" COUNTRIES WILL CONSIDER CATS A "PREMATURE ITEM";

--DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OUGHT TO AVOID EMPHASIZING THE ECONOMICALLY CRIPPLING EFFECTS ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF INCREASING ARMS EXPENDITURES; THIS PREOCCUPATION SMACKS BOTH OF "PATERNALISM" AND "INTERFERENCE" IN A SOVEREIGN NATION'S RIGHT TO DISPOSE OF ITS FINANCIAL RESOURCES AS IT CHOOSES;

--AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF CATS INVOLVE FIVE OR SIX MAJOR ARMS SUPPLIERS AND CORRESPONDINGLY SMALL NUMBER OF ARMS PURCHASERS; (OF PURCHASERS, HE CITED SPECIFICALLY EGYPT, ISRAEL, SAUDI ARABIA, AND IRAN;) IN COMPARISON TO LATTER'S PARTICIPATION IN CATS, INVOLVEMENT OF OTHERS IS ALMOST "NEGLIGIBLE"; UNTIL "BIG PRODUCERS" THEMSELVES EVIDENCE SOME RESTRAINT, FOR EXAMPLE, THROUGH REDUCING CONFIDENTIAL

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CONVENTIONAL ARMS LEVELS IN EUROPE OR "REDUCING RATHER THAN MERELY SEEKING TO LIMIT "NUCLEAR STOCKPILES, CREDIBILITY OF THEIR EMPHASIS ON CATS WILL BE LIMITED: NON-ALIGNED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD OPPOSE EITHER REALITY OR APPEARANCE OF A "LONDON CLUB" AGREEMENT AMONG CONVENTIONAL ARMS SUPPLIERS;

--IT IS INCUMBENT UPON LARGE PRODUCERS TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT NOT ONLY IN PRODUCING AND OFFERING FOR SALE CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS BUT IN DEVELOPING AND STOCKPILING SOPHISTICATED ARMS; THE TRANSFER OF ARMS PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY OUGHT ALSO TO BE OF CONCERN;

--IN SUM, GOY RECOMMENDS "PATIENCE" ON SUBJECT OF CATS; IT IS MORE "A QUESTION FOR THE FUTURE"; THE "EDUCATING" OF MOST COUNTRIES ON THIS ISSUE WILL BE A LONG AND DIFFICULT PROCESS; CATS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IN SSOD IN "PRINCIPLES RATHER THAN SPECIFICS"; INCLUSION OF SOME "PRINCIPLES" ON CATS IN SSOD DOCUMENTS MAY BE POSSIBLE; IN THAT REGARD, SSOD MIGHT CONSTITUTE "SOMETHING OF A TURNING POINT FOR FUTURE" INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION OF CATS; ONE MIGHT EVEN LOOK TOWARD A CONFERENCE

IN "I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY YEARS" MUT "IN THE FORE-  
SEEABLE FUTURE" DEVOTED SOLELY TO CONVENTIONAL  
WEAPONS ARMS CONTROL.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BELGRADE 0289

3. RE PARA 10 OF REF A, MIHAILOVIC SAID PASSAGE IN  
QUESTION IN GOY'S LETTER TO WALDHEIM ON SSOD HAD BEEN  
GENERATED BY DESIRE TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON EFFECTS OF  
CONTINUING MASSIVE ARMS SHIPMENTS TO CRISIS AREAS,  
PARTICULARLY THE MIDDLE EAST. HE DID NOT SUGGEST THAT  
GOY PLANS PURSURE THIS ISSUE ACTIVELY IN SSOD.

4. US-YUGOSLAV CONSULTATIONS ON SSOD. MIHAILOVIC  
SAID YUGOSLAVS HAD "IDENTIFIED" UNITED STATES AS  
AMONG THOSE COUNTRIES WITH WHICH IT IS PARTICULARLY  
"ANXIOUS" TO ENGAGE IN MORE THOROUGH CONSULTATIONS ON  
SSOD. IT IS "MERELY A QUESTION OF TIME AND PLACE"  
MIHAILOVIC SAID HE WOULD BE ONLY YUGOSLAV OFFICIAL FROM  
BELGRADE AT JAN 24 SSOD PREPARATORY SESSION AND THAT HE  
HAD IN MIND BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AT SOMEWHAT HIGHER  
LEVEL, E.G., OFFICE DIRECTOR OR ASSIT. SECY. HE PROMISED  
IMMEDIATELY TO TAKE UP MATTER OF LEVEL, TIMING AND  
VENUE OF FURTHER BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON SSOD WITH  
APPROPRIATE FSFA OFFICIALS.

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5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER AND INFORM  
US WHEN, WHERE AT AT WHAT LEVEL IT MAY BE INTERESTED, IF  
AT ALL, IN PURSUING BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVS  
ON SSOD. WE WOULD ENCOURAGE RESPONSIVENESS TO YUGOSLAVIA'S  
OBVIOUS DESIRE FOR SUCH TALKS.  
EAGLEBURGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014